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Copies of the newsletter are available at Town Hall, in the public libraries of Brant Lake, Adirondack hamlets, and on line at our web site: www.horiconny.gov.



New Town Garage

Photo by Carl Heilman

From the Office of Supervisor Ralph Bentley:

Two Thousand Eight started off busy and promises to continue the same way. Some projects begun last year are completed or scheduled for completion in the next few months.

- *New gate installation for the lower dam on Mill Pond is waiting at Warren County D.P.W. for the pond level to lower.*
- *Wing wall repair on upper dam on Mill Pond was completed last fall and awaits site repaving and guardrails.*
- *Assessment Re-val program is now completed. Tax rates decrease; new assessment values should reflect new rates of less than \$10.00 per thousand, which includes School, County, Town and Fire Tax.*
- *Horicon Museum Expansion—The Historical Society building project to expand the Carriage House is in the works in order to exhibit more donated memorabilia.*

New Watering Tub—The watering tub was replaced due to the internal crumbling of the stonework. Over the years it has been repaired many times, but could no longer be fixed. The “home grown” boulder was carved by Blair Gregson.

New Highway Garage—Is completed and within budget. Comments from employees and visitors alike have been very favorable.

Community Development Strategic Plan and Comprehensive Master Plan—Is moving ahead with the Adirondack Community Smart Growth Reimbursement Grant for \$23,000 awarded to the Town for the downtown revitalization plan. The Town of Horicon is working with the Laberge Group to complete the Community Development Strategic Plan in June. A Technical Assistance Grant of \$25,000 is being used to fund development and completion of the Comprehensive Master Plan.

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Letter from Ralph Bentley (...continued)

**New Honor Roll**

Erwin Robins with Ralph Bentley



New Honor Roll In Adirondack—A new Honor Roll for WWII Veterans was erected on the spot where the old one once stood. The sign was dedicated on Memorial Day by our local veterans' organizations. The sign was made by Garnet Signs and was donated in honor of all Veterans by Erwin Robins.

CONGRATULATIONS! To Jerry and Elna Meader who are the Chamber of Commerce V.I.P.s this year. Jerry and Elna are certainly deserving of the honor for all they do for our community.

Welcome to our new businesses in Town:

- "Brant Lake Taxi and Transport Service" owned and operated by Don Butler and partner Keith Wilkinson who will be providing 'reliable, friendly and courteous service to Horicon and surrounding communities'. (Don Butler explains in further detail the taxi and transport services in the Newsletter).
- "Getting in Touch" owned by Laurie Hughes, a licensed Massage Therapist. Ms. Hughes explains the services she provides in a related article in the Newsletter.

Other Highlights and This Year— the Town of Horicon hosted the Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony honoring all Veterans. There are new American flags flying in Horicon and we have new and colorful banners on the poles to "Welcome" everyone.

In closing....I would like to commend Paul Smith and the Highway Department for their outstanding job over this past difficult winter. With 90 inches of snow and many storms of sleet, hail, snow and rain mixed together they kept the roads safe for us all.

I would also like to recognize the people who work with me here in the Community Center. I appreciate their cheerful and professional inter-action with the people who come into our building for whatever reason. They share a genuine interest in making our Town the best it can be.



Brant Lake Taxi and Transport Service

By Don Butler

Editor's Note: this is a continuing series of *First Person* accounts written by citizens of the Town of Horicon who have opened new businesses providing valuable and needed services to the town. Here are two more from Don Butler and Laurie Hughes.



My family and I have been coming to Brant Lake for over 55 years, which is now home to us for the last 40 years. Keith Wilkinson, my partner, has been a "Brant Laker" for over 20 years. My wife and I fell in love with this area for its unspoiled beauty and convenient access to major recreational destinations.

We determined there was a need to provide a local and dependable transportation service to both full time and part time residents of Brant Lake, Adirondack hamlets as well as the surrounding communities. That's why in April of this year, we started the Brant Lake and Transportation Service. Our first customer was Jim Conroy, who at 94 needed a reliable and safe means of transportation to take him to places so he can enjoy his passion of dancing.

Our mission is to provide a wide range of dependable transport services to meet both individual and recreational needs; as well as special group events, such as parties (arrangements can be made to rent the taxi by the hour) and weddings. We also have been bringing people to their medical appointments, airports, etc.

We can offer to bring "snow birds" and their cars down to Florida or any other city destination, as well as provide for the round trip back to Brant Lake.

With the rising cost of gasoline, I believe we can provide value at reasonable rates, especially if several people take advantage of our service at the same time, for example, to go shopping, attend local community and civic-sponsored events.

Our van accommodates up to seven passengers. Our telephone number is (518) 494-2507. We accept major credit cards. In the future, we may expand our services to include shuttle transport to key tourist attractions around the area.

Getting in Touch—body, mind, spirit Massage Therapy

By Laurie Hughes

As a child, my family vacationed in Brant Lake, and when I was seven, we moved here from Long Island. I attended school, raised a family and have enjoyed working and living ever since in a small town atmosphere surrounded by the beauty of the Adirondacks.

I am a NYS Licensed Massage Therapist and recently opened a practice in Adirondack and also in Chestertown at the Panther Mt. Fitness Center. I am excited about being in this business, as it is very rewarding to see the benefits people receive from it. Massage can have a positive impact on your health and well being as most illness is caused by stress in our lives. We each have certain areas in our bodies where we hold our stress. This can be physical stress from our job that requires us to be in a constant position, repetitive movement throughout the work day, or emotional stress from everyday living. Massage can help you relax and access the healing energy within you to create a sense of well being.

It can also address particular areas in your body to ease and/or eliminate discomfort.

I use a variety of modalities and often incorporate two or more into one massage that I feel will be beneficial to the client. Some of these include Swedish Massage, myofascial Release, Shiatsu, Therapeutic Massage and Reiki. I have recently taken an eight-hour course on carpal tunnel syndrome, which affects a large portion of the population.

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Getting in Touch... (continued)

In July, I will be attending a three-day seminar in Boston that focuses on massage and cancer. Massage can be used for a variety of reasons including maintaining good health. It benefits almost everyone emotionally and/or physically.

Recently, I completed training as a hospice volunteer which does many wonderful things for people and their families going through a difficult time. I look forward to contributing my time.

The Glens Falls Hospital sponsored my training for the Lebed Method. This is a medically-based exercise program to music. It was originally created by Sherry Lebed whose background was in dance (her brother is a doctor) for their mother who had breast cancer. She needed more than the medical treatment, as she had lost mobility in her arm and felt depressed. Together, they created an exercise program with their mother in mind that has been in effect for over 26 years. The exercises help to restore strength and mobility and possibly aid in the diminution of lymphedema by opening lymphatic flow. Lymphedema can also result when any lymph nodes are removed or have been damaged as a result of radiation treatments. The Lebed Method is being offered at the Glens Falls Hospital in June and I hope there will be enough interest in our area to offer it here in the fall. This program is also good for people with issues such as: fibromyalgia, arthritis, osteoporosis, chronic fatigue and frozen shoulder.

Please feel free to give me a call if you would like to share your thoughts or have any questions. I can be reached at (518) 494-2759 or (518) 232-7422.

Comprehensive Master Plan Update Status

By Dr. Richard F. Lamb, Professor of Environmental Planning and the Center for Earth and Environmental Science, State University of Plattsburg: Comprehensive Master Plan Consultant to the Town of Horicon

The draft Town of Horicon Comprehensive Plan consists of four components that will be completed, or nearing completion by the issue date of this newsletter.

Part 1 of the Comprehensive Plan, "Inventory and Analysis," has been prepared and consists of an inventory of the town's environmental and cultural resources, together with the land use patterns, growth trend data and other information pertinent to the planning effort. It contains the consultant's suggestions for preserving the rural character and environmental quality of the town. Several maps are included in this document. (The report and maps are available in separate .pdf files on the town website).

Part 2 of the Comprehensive Plan, "Analysis of Allowable Building Density," is also complete and contains an evaluation of the existing Town of Horicon zoning law with respect to required minimum lot sizes in each zoning district. The primary purpose of this analysis is to investigate the possibility of reducing the required lot size in one or more areas of town in order to provide affordable building lots for "workforce housing." The degree to which required lot sizes may be reduced is constrained by Adirondack Park Agency regulations, and for this reason, the analysis is quite complex. The general conclusion is that creating a new zoning district allowing 1-acre lots would likely require increasing the required minimum lot size in other area, for example, from 10 to 42.6 acres. There are numerous possible locations that might be appropriate for a small lot zoning district. The Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee has decided not to designate any such specific area in the town land use plan at this time, but to leave open the possibility of creating such a small lot district or districts in the future.

Part 3 of the Comprehensive Plan discusses issues facing the town, and establishes goals and recommendations to guide its future. Over the course of a number of monthly meetings the Steering Committee established several goals and recommendations in the following broad categories:

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Comprehensive Master Plan Update Status... (continued)

- ❖ Housing and Land Use
- ❖ Commerce
- ❖ Environmental and Natural Resources
- ❖ Public Services
- ❖ Recreation
- ❖ Land Use Regulation Update

Part 3 of the Comprehensive Plan also contains the town Land Use Plan. The Land Use Plan does not call for any change in the existing zoning district boundaries, or for any change in the currently permitted intensity of development (minimum lot size) within each zone. However, there are proposed changes in the types of land uses that would be permitted within each zoning district. The vision for many of the rural residential districts has changed somewhat. The Land Use Plan differs from the existing zoning law in that it envisions a *greater mix of land uses* in rural area. The general philosophy is to allow more businesses, especially home-based enterprises, coupled with adopting *more thorough site plan approval standards* designed to protect neighboring properties from possible adverse impacts that may arise from such uses.

Part 4 The fourth component of the town of Horicon Comprehensive Plan is the “Community Development Strategic Plan” prepared by the Laberge Group in consultation with a citizen Advisory Committee. This plan, described in the winter 2008 newsletter, deals with housing, economic development, hamlet design and architectural review standards.

The Steering Committee is now working on revising the town’s land use regulations in accordance with the goals and recommendations of the Comprehensive Plan. It has already devoted considerable time to this task, and has developed proposed revisions to the list of land uses permitted within each of the town’s zoning districts.

(This list is available for viewing in chart form on the town’s website). Next on the agenda is discussing possible new regulations in a number of subject areas, including the following: junk and junk storage, general approval standards for Site Plans and Conditional Uses, green space buffer requirement, accessory apartments, individual sited mobile homes, adult entertainment, bed and breakfast establishments, fuel distribution business, home base businesses with vehicles or equipment, home based manufacturing, industrial and warehousing uses, keeping of animals, kennels, motor vehicle repair shops, outdoor wood boilers, retail gasoline sales, sawmills or chipping mills, seasonal roadside stands, telecommunication facilities, residential wind power generating facilities and yard/garage sales.

APA Approval. The Town of Horicon has what is known as an Adirondack Park Agency “Approved Local Planning Program,” which means that changes in land use regulations must be approved by the APA before being officially adopted by the town. This is the next step after the Steering Committee has finished its work on the proposed regulatory changes which must be approved and adopted by the Town Board.

***New Watering
Tub Carved
Stone Basin***



Dates to Remember:

Town Meetings: Town Board - third Thursday 7:00PM
Comprehensive Master Plan - first Thursday 7:00PM
Planning Board - third Wednesday 7:30PM
Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) -fourth Tuesday 7:30PM
Note: July ZBA meeting will be held on the 5th Tuesday, July 29th

- Fireworks are July 12 behind the Town Municipal Center – Chestertown
- Brant Lake Foundation (BLF) Boat Parade-July 5th Saturday. Parade commences at 11:00AM at Raymond's Cottages, 696 Palisades Road

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Town of Horicon
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